

(g) If elected, nominees must meet all the eligibility requirements in § 7.18 to serve as county committee members.

**§ 7.9 Slate of candidates.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a slate of candidates will consist of one or more eligible farmers and ranchers nominated through public solicitation of nominees as specified in § 7.8.

(b) If no nominations are received by the closing date for nominations, the county committee must develop a slate of candidates in accordance with the Uniform Guidelines.

(c) A slate developed by the county committee must include at least one individual representing the interests of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

(d) Candidates must certify their willingness to serve on the county committee if elected as a member or alternate.

(e) The county committee must accept write-in candidates on ballots.

(f) Write-in candidates, if elected as a member or an alternate, must meet the eligibility requirements of § 7.18 and must certify their willingness to serve on the county committee before they will be certified as a member or alternate.

**§ 7.10 Conduct of county committee elections.**

(a) The county committee serving at the time of the election will be responsible for the conduct of the county committee election in accordance with the Uniform Guidelines and with any instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator.

(b) County committee elections must not be associated with, or held in conjunction with, any other election or referendum conducted for any other purpose.

(c) The county committee must give advance public notice at least 30 calendar days prior to the election date of how, when, and where eligible voters may vote.

(d) The county committee must provide at least 10 calendar days of public notice of the date, time, and place at

which election ballots will be opened and counted.

(e) The county committee must provide at least 10 calendar days of public notice that any person may observe the opening and counting of the election ballots.

(f) The county executive director must notify all nominees of the outcome of the election within 5 calendar days of the election date. The notification must be in writing.

**§ 7.11 Election of county committee members.**

(a) Where there are three local administrative areas as specified in § 7.6, there will be an election of a county committee member and, if available, any alternates, for a term of not more than 3 years, or until such person's successor is elected and qualified, in only one of the local administrative areas so that the term of office of one county committee member and any alternates within one of the local administrative areas will expire each year.

(b) Where there are more than three local administrative areas as specified in § 7.6, there will be an election in at least one of the local administrative areas each year, such that the term of office of the county committee member(s) and any alternates within at least one-third of the local administrative areas will expire each year.

(c) Every 3 years, the eligible voters in a local administrative area will elect a county committee member and may elect first and second alternates, as available, to serve. The alternates will serve, in the order of the number of votes received, as acting members of the county committee, in case of the temporary absence of a member, or to become a member of the county committee in that same order elected in case of the resignation, disqualification, removal, or death of a member. In other words, the candidate receiving the most votes will be elected as the committee member, and the candidates receiving the second and third most votes, if there are multiple candidates, will be elected as first and second alternates, respectively.

(d) An alternate serving as an acting member of the county committee will have the same duties, responsibilities,